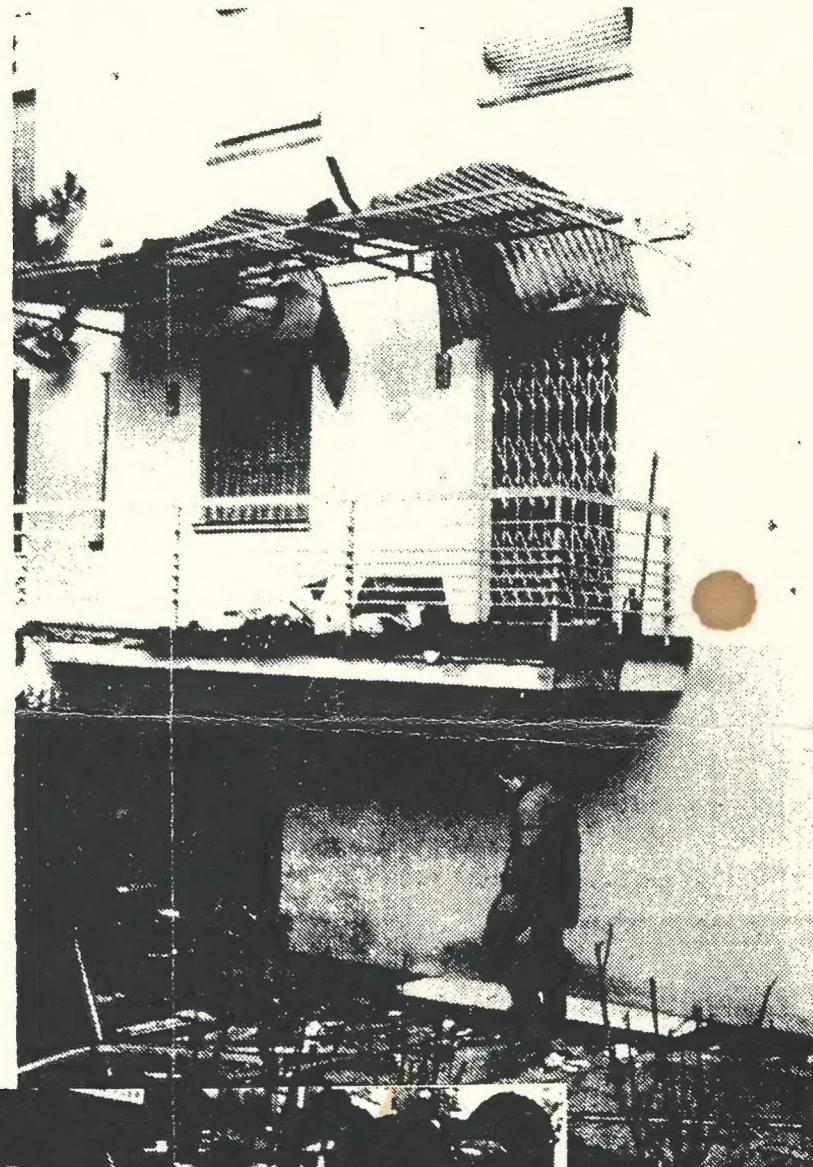


anti-imperialist resistance in the frg

history of the last time



this paper is about the anti-imperialist resistance in the frg - mainly about the development during and after the hungerstrike of the political prisoners '84/85. i want, coming out of my own experience, to try to convey our recent history and put it into context. with this i am thinking primarily about comrades from other countries, who then would have, with this paper, a basis from which to understand other papers, discussions, and statements - that is as a rough introduction. and thusly, it should contribute to an ongoing political exchange - especially in western europe. this exchange is the first prerequisite for developing step by step a common struggle against our common enemy in nato-imperialism. common struggle is a big word in light of what exists as a beginning between us, but that is our orientation and our goal.

for us in the frg, this orientation has become more concrete through the last hungerstrike of the political prisoners from the raf, the anti-imperialist resistance and other fighting prisoners for their association together in large groups. more concretely, because we, the resistance, together with the prisoners and the guerilla developed a strength upon which it became possible for us to seriously imagine the development of a revolutionary process here and to work in conjunction with other european countries. this seriousness was made clear, for example, at a meeting of around 300 people around new year's where the discussions, in spite of all our differences, were no longer dominated by the old sectarianism, but rather by the search for a common perspective. that, in short, is the development which we are also hoping for among the various resistance movements in western europe.

but now more in detail about our experiences during the hungerstrike. the hs began in a situation which was for the resistance unclear. the last common, frg-wide practical experience had been the mobilization against the us munition transports; various initiatives and groups formed in 1983 which watched the transports by train and ship and made them public with the goal of stopping the transports by mass actions. in this direct attack, there was an idea of internationalism which not only supported the liberation movements, but also fought against the same enemy in the centers -that is also here. here where the wars are planned, where gis and military materials await their operations, where through the existence of a supposedly free state they justify (with propaganda) their attacks on other countries, exploitation, oppression. they need the centers, us and western europe as quiet bases. the destruction of this quiet is our chance and our responsibility. this meaning of resistance was worked out through our actions against the munition transports, but we were not able to attain our goal in practice. people who lived near ports where the us military supplies were loaded from the ships to trains where it was clear on which tracks the trains would then go, were able to halt the trains with blockades of some 200 to 400 people. but in other

transports were moving that the ideas for actions were often rejected right from the start. but that is only the external reason for the failure. a more basic reason was our unclarity, which partly became apparent for the first time under the pressure of repression. the mere identification of the goal of a blockade and the political ideas behind it started up the apparatus of repression in a way not known before. groups working against the munitions transport were brought in connection with the raf by the media propaganda. that meant they were being threatened with prison and drastic measures. concretely, people who were watching the transports were charged with "support of the raf" and letters from prisoners about this issue were confiscated and those who wrote the letters were investigated as members of a so-called "illegal information system". that was an hysteria campaign and a threat by the state apparatus that, at the latest, made clear to us that the state interpreted our initiative as an attack and preventively fought against it before we ever knew how we wanted to put our goal of "attacking the nato reinforcements" into action. many first became conscious of the meaning of the confrontation around this question. our ideas of "how" were too diffuse to be able to overcome our fear and our practical limits. because of our frustration a lot of our discussion groups felt apart - the large groups in the cities and the national meetings. it was then a matter of each one clarifying if he/she wanted to take on the confrontation with the whole brutality of the power apparatus - it was a matter of seriousness, subjective will, and hope. in hindsight anyway, that is how it appeared. and to a great extent that was true. but we made the mistake of looking for individual solutions. many doubted themselves and accused themselves personally for their indetermination and unclarity. or we thought about ideas which really did not come from our guts, but rather from our abstract expectations of what one should do. those are both positions that come from weakness; and we did feel weak then. we were offensive neither in our subjective working through criticism/self criticism (for example, to break out of our self-doubts, achievement orientation) nor in our political practice (to try new beginnings without repeating mistakes). we didn't acknowledge our experience of moving forward only when we deal with our difficulties in the resistance step by step, are offensive and attack. we put ourselves individually in the center of the world and of course the problems appeared huge and irresolvable to us. (this part is presented especially subjectively and applies to many, but certainly not all of us.) there have been also recent actions and demonstrations, against the fall maneuver of nato, for example. but these actions don't represent decisive new ideas or impulses for the resistance as a whole. before the beginning of the hungerstrike, we had already realized that we, with our individualistic way of dealing with things, weren't moving for -

ward - we were wanting things to change. an in there came the hs statement. the prisoners simply took up the initiative and we saw an opportunity to finally let our diffuse learning processes flow into practice. the prisoners describe the situation of the whole revolutionary left thusly: "in our situation, we have to make the same decision which all aspects of the revolutionary left face: to break out of the bogged down power relationships and defensiveness, to transform the search, the beginnings, the will in struggle and to create new political breakthroughs (...) either they fight ahead in the practice of resistance to an authentic revolutionary process in western europe, in which they subjectively enter into the struggle for liberation; or they can only comment on the crimes of imperialism and the move toward a totally fascist as marginal opposition". and the resistance went on the offensive: there were never so many well-aimed actions as during the hs. together with the strength of the prisoners and the attacks of the guerilla, we developed an undreamed of strength - power which was not sufficient to put through the demand of the prisoners being put together in groups, but one that definitely moved the revolutionary process here forward. but first more about the specifics: on dec, 4, 1984 the hs began in which 36 political prisoners took part. they demanded prison conditions as established by the geneva convention as minimum guarantees against torture and extermination of prisoners of war. concretely that means:

- association of the prisoners from the raf, the resistance and all fighting prisoners together in groups
- abolishment of single and small group isolation and acoustic and optic investigation and control
- removal of communication block: visits, letters, books, free political information and discussion

most of the hungerstrikers were prisoners from the raf. 5 prisoners were from the anti-imperialist resistance. they had been arrested because of a militant demonstration against u.s. vice-president bush in krefeld or with the constructed charges of "supporting the raf." three of the hungerstrikers had become politicized in prison. it was the first time that all of these prisoners fought together for their association in groups. this is a concrete expression of the coming together of the struggles of the guerilla and the resistance that was going on outside the prisons. it was a question of developing the various struggles in themselves, but for a common goal, which at that time was the association of the political prisoners in groups.

one week after the beginning of the hs there were huge public meetings in five different cities in the frg. in hamburg, for example, there were 500 people, speeches from people from the resistance and from relatives of the prisoners. a speaker from the resistance explained the relationship

to the hs coming out of the working through of the various histories of the various movements: "because we habe the same goals as the prisoners: to break out of the defensive and create a movement for liberation; one that is coming from us, exactly from where we are at to build the front and with that to determine for ourselves the confrontation. because that is the issue at hand, the struggle of the prisoners is now decisive for us, for the next phase of the fight. that means: what we make of it is decisive for the revolutionary process." the relatives told about harassment and threats during their prison visits and about a trip they made to spain to visit the relatives committee there. then comrades from kurdistan and iran read greetings messages from their groups and solidarity statements with the hungerstrike. the comrade from iran said:"these people have been given enough to eat; they have been blamed for part of the exploitation of the underdeveloped countries. whoever gives up his share of this capitalist paradise, must truly be a child of freedom. it is obviously not enough to fill bellies; it requires something more to really satisfy people and make them happy. because why else are people in the most highly developed prosperous society rebelling, endangering their socially insured position and landing behind the wall of isolation where they are gradually being psychically as well as physically worn down."

there was no discussion at this meeting. the thoughts were all very new and the long speeches were somewhat overwhelming. but the public meetings and the distribution of the hs statement kindled discussion in all circles of the left. from the beginning there were 2 basic positions: one was that it was wrong to begin the hs in a situation where the resistance appeared so weak and the demand could probably not be put through. the other was that the left was weak, true, but there was a chance to break out of this weakness and the thought of fighting together with the prisoners and the guerilla for a concrete goal was exciting and opened up the possibility to move a step forward in practice toward political unity. those who did not decide to develop and become active around their own ideas during the hs, but rather felt forced on the grounds of humanism to do solidarity work, stuck by the first position, because they weren't operating from something moving inside of them, but rather from moralistic pressure. by active and initiative i mean not only the bigger actions, but also movements in individuals, changes of mind or getting clearer. there has in any case never been so much discussion over a hs statement, even though there were few public or mass meetings about it after the initial 5. that was certainly a weakness - a result of the phase before the hs: we were simply not able to imagine mass meetings as being productive. the strength during the hs was developed among those who knew each other well, who had developed a common basis together in discussions beforehand.

the discussions around the hs statement were so intense because many

of our thoughts could be developed further. the prisoners started, as stated, from the defensive position of the revolutionary left and developed for themselves the next step as part of "the battle that prepares for victory." their concrete issue was the prison conditions as part of imperialist counter-insurgency which has the goal of destroying the prisoners political identity - through isolation to break their will, or physically. their means are solitary confinement with surveillance, cell raids, strip searches, beatings, sleep deprivation, natural light deprivation, color deprivation, no fresh air, limited visits, presence of officials during visits who listen and write down what is being said, reduced availability of books, newspapers, and letters, and much more. these measures are aimed not only at the prisoners directly, but at the whole resistance."since the defeat of the u.s. system in vietnam and the re-construction phase in which it fascistically organized nato as the strategic military alliance for u.s. policies internally and externally because they mean to be there at every intervention, it has become an existential issue to have and to keep the west european metropolises under control. they want to attain this "keeping under control", along with other means (through the destruction of the political identity of the prisoner) by taking away our hope that the struggle continues in prison and that the pigs are not able to destroy a revolutionary will, even under the most difficult conditions. the power which the strength can be and becomes as against their whole hollow military machine. the prisoners developed in their statement not only what they are against, but also what they are fighting for. that was also a point that related to our diffuse ideas. we had also learned from our struggle against the munition transport that it is not enough to be clear about the enemy. especially in the metropolis with the deeply ingrained alienation and isolation it is important to make what we are fighting for clear. the most important aspect is collectivity - which has been concretized by the political prisoners in their demand to be put together in groups. the prisoners say: "collectivity is the structure and the goal of a liberation war. it is the only space in which responsibility, learning process, and self-determined conscious relationships to one another can develop. collectivity is the realization of a new reality among us and for us which is no longer reachable or graspable for the enemy . a subjective and objectively important structure, especially in the metropolises in the absence of mass revolutionary struggle, the weak broad legal organizational form against fascism here, from the experience of the irresponsibility of their political structure, their sporadicness and impossibility to be subjects of their own actions in structures which are controlled and manipulated by the state.

collectivity is determined by the goal - to come to the attack, not a single

but as a continuous common process of political determination and action. collectivity exists only in struggle and can only develop against domination and oppression. it is not merely a negation of state and capital, but rather the societal organization of free human beings, as it is here and now, every where where there is struggle already is possible." a real closeness of the struggle of the prisoners to the resistance on the outside was brought about through this part of the hs statement. the comrades in a resolution at a mass meeting in west berlin during the hs expressed it this way: "collectivity is just as important a condition of struggle for us on the outside. it's all the same whether we are trying to break out of male/female roles, develop political ideas and actions, or defend ourselves against the one-room-hole-politics of the city planners. in addition to that, there are our difficulties and problems with living and dealing with each other, supressing our problems instead of trying to solve them. also it is a matter of getting to know each other in various situations- and of course having fun together. (sometimes taking a trip together, too) our experience has been that collectivity is possible where people are putting up a fight together. that produces a whole new kind of relationship, solidarity and vitality. through that we get an inkling of what liberation can mean. and thusly, collectivity is a weapon against the states logic. because it is not only a fight against the pigs, but a fight for us. (...) our solidarity with the prisoners is determined not only by our common enemy and our decision to fight against it. it is precisely the common demand of self-determined association together in groups for the prisoners from the raf, the anti-imperialist resistance and all fighting prisoners which is very near and understandable for us. because those of us on the outside have the same needs: of coming together with those with whom we want collectively to fight."

it was also important that in this hs, as compared to earlier ones, that the mobilization was not only around the information about torture, because progressive people have known this for a long time unless they didn't want to know it, and because our responsibility had another emphasis. "it is not a matter of educating about torture. it is a question of revolutionary counter power and action. the whole arrogance of the imperialist display of power knows only one limit- one set by a strong, self-determined resistance from illegality and legality together."

so that ist something of the development. there were innumerable actions in the frg and other we countries:

- the relatives of the political prisoners occupied the psychology institute in hamburg where torture is researched. they also occupied the information bureau of the europarates and made a speech in front of the house of the judge in christian klar's trial (a prisoner from the raf) as christian's condition was life- threatening.

- small demonstrations of 200 people or so through shopping centers and where the windows of stores and banks were smashed.
- occupation of the office of the green party with the demand of supporting the hungerstrike. the office of the alternative slate in w.berlin was turned into an information bureau by the occupiers.
- "free radio" interrupted a normal radio station and reported about the hs.
- big demonstrations in various cities and a national demo in karlsruhe against the attorney general's office as being concretely responsible for the prison conditions.
- a burning barricade in front of the occupied houses in the hafenstr. in hamburg - traffic was stopped for hours and the inhabitants of the houses read a statement
- numerous attacks on nato facilitiers, the military and capital: against the nato oil-pipelines, u.s.-radio towers, u.s. army vehicles and facilities, w.german army facilities, aeg, siemens, computer centers, ibm, banks and against establishments which are the respective targets of certain resistance groups: against genetic research institutes, a training camp for neo-fascists, a power line from a nuclear plant, a depot for trucks which were to be transported to the turkish military.

one comrade was killed during a bombing of a computer center in stuttgart, because the bomb exploded too early.

many groups from w.e. sent telegrams of solidarity and there were many open discussion meetings. the consulate was occupied in holland. there were rallies in spain, small demonstrations and one armed action by grapo against mercedes. the political prisoners in france went on a hungerstrike in solidarity. in belgium the fighting communist cells attacked a u.s. army intelligence center. in geneva, the international red cross was occupied with the demand of supporting the hs. the german embassy was attacked in greece. there were even leaflets about the hs distributed in cairo. and certainly still more.

on dec 18, 1984, the raf attempted an attack on the nato leadership training school (the shape school) in oberammergau. "the goal of the action was to eliminate the military directly." the bomb did not go off, however, because of a technical problem or/and because it was discovered by the guards.

on feb. 1, 1985 ernst zimmermann, the head of the fifth largest armament company (mtu) in the brd and president of the w.german association of aerospace and armament industries, was executed by the patsy-o-hara-kommendo of the raf. zimmermann played a central role in the military industrial complex within nato. concretely through german-french joint projects in armament production. on the french side general rene audran played the same role as director of the department of international affairs in the defense ministry. he was executed on jan. 26, 1985 by the french guerilla organization action directe by the kommando elizabeth van dyck,

a member of the raf, executed in nürnberg in 1978.

what was particular about hte attacks by the resistance and the guerilla was not only the number, but also, and above all, the unity and clarity of the targets. they were always central institutions or people who play an important role in the current imperialist strategy of building up we, as a strong pillar of nato. that means, that the attacks express an absolute clarity about the system, a seriousness in the search for a strategy which anticipates the development of imperialism, and a continuity of struggle, that goes far above and beyond mere anger about the prison conditions. this development is expressed also in the communiqües from attacks. many not only expressed why they had attacked a certain target, but also described their relationship to the whole development of revolutionary resistance. from a communique about the burning of the w.german trucks."a new phase in our struggle for liberation has begun with the hs of the revolutionary prisoners in the frg and france. it is now a question of consolidating and making the front of the guerilla and the resistance in all of western europe material. that means for us to rid ourselves subjectively and objectively from the bogged down structures, the paralyzing, senseless daily life in order to take up the confrontation, the struggle as a whole. the comrades from the guerilla organizations in france and the frg, action directe and the red army fraction have undertaken for themselves a necessary step toward international unity of the revolutionary forces in we, by beginning the process with the coming together of the two organizations. we greet our imprisoned comrades in france and the frg with love. their struggle, their determination, and the struggle of the guerilla and resistance on the outside - that will become the front, which makes victory over this rotten system, which cannot offer us anything any longer, imaginable. we want to be a part of that, because we can only be alive in struggle, giving each other strength, taking ourselves seriously, criticising. we have made ourselves along the way."

we were not strong enough in our struggle for the association of the prisoners in groups to rut the demand through. the state did not bend even up until the very end. on the contrary, it became clearer and clearer that the decisions were being made at the nato level - not to give in, even if the situation for them was uncalculable after the death of a prisoner. after the shooting of audran, shultz intervened and committed the frg to his line of "prevention and tetaliation." and preventively there were increased news reports about alleged threats - like, for example , that a subway would be bombed if prisoners died. such fascist attacks are not made by us, nor threatened. that means that such reports to the press come directly from the state to disorient people: the people are not supposed to become clear about the brutality of the state,

but rather they should be afraid of us and our alleged brutality. the mobilizing effect of the strike made it a success inspite of the fact that the demand was not reached. through the combined action of the resistance, the prisoners and the guerilla from the frg and other western european countries against ~~the~~ common enemy and for the same goal, it became tangible what this can mean: the development of the front in western europe. but the beginnings of the front were not a commen, jointly determined process then, but rather acting in combination.

with the background of the strength that was attained, the prisoners broke the strike. "after the shooting of audran and zimmermann, we ended the strike because the situation, through the intensity of the attacks in the center of their power where we were standing right in the middle, fighting with the hs, was so hot in the confrontation with this imperialist state, that they wanted to kill us. that was clear. the effect of the international struggles and the front is being built up, but it has not yet matured to the point where it was possible in this situation to put through our material goal of being put together in groups." (anne holling prisoner from the resistance who was on hs)

as the prisoners broke their strike, we were all happy that the pigs had not succeeded in killing one of the prisoners. they tried, however, with the random use of forced feeding, on and off, and then with the so-called "coma-solution" with certain individuals. the "coma-solution" is a new attempt of the pigs, to break hungerstrikes as a means of struggle in practice, it looks like this: "they wait until the prisoner is in a coma to fully isolate him from contact to the outside world and to have him fully under the control of the state over a longer time period in a condition hanging between life and death. every means of orientation is then taken away from the prisoner who is already in such a weakened condition that a conscious decision is impossible. this situation is portrayed as "life-saving" to the outside world and at the same time used propagandistically as the breaking of the strike." (from a pamphlet from lawyers "from forced-feeding to coma-solution") günter sonnenberg, a prisoner from the raf said about that "after i had cleaned out and elucidated my memories somewhat better, about this period, the methods of "coma-solution" and "intensive care" became clear to me as even more destructive counter attacks by the other side than forced feeding; with forced feeding, the fronts are always clear: they, those who beat us up, chain us and force the tube through our noses into our stomachs, are the enemy against whom we can direct hate and anger; but one is confused by this "intensive care", even if he is still clear, about the fact that the ones who are doing it are pigs: to put up a fight against a "treatment" and to resist it as soon as one has a clear consciousness demands a clarity that we must work out based on this experience." other means of the state against the hs were psychological warfare (hysteria

in the mass media and false reports), threats of charges against the lawyers in the media, preparation of a complete contact ban for the prisoners, arrests, and all of the usual means of repression like, for example, bans on visits were increased.

but now back to the development of the resistance. after the strike we tried to work through our new experiences. that took place mostly in small groups. we discussed on a national level for the first time at the new years meeting in the hafenstrasse which was mentioned at the beginning of this paper.

aside from the fact that the hungerstrike was important for all of us, that it mobilized us and gave us an orientation, there were 3 other issues in the big workshop about "experiences of 1985". i cannot repeat the whole discussion here, but i will mention the issues, because they were important for many as well. first there was the issue of the conference planned on "international anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist resistance in western europe." the conference came out of the need to work further on the acting in combination/coming together of the resistance on the west european level. the basis was the experiences in hs, the strong mobilization against imperialist war and nato in many west european countries (for example against reagan's european trip in 1982) and the many militant demonstrations and actions in the fall of '85.

about the demonstrations more precisely: they were aimed concretely against the various effects of imperialism, but they expressed a hatred of the system and a lack of compromise which set a limit for the state in every country - integration (co-optation) is not longer possible and the pig measures of the state will be turned against it. that was very clear in the frg after the murder of gunther sare, who was run over by a water canon truck at an anti-fascist demonstration. this murder exposed the state once more and there were militant demonstrations and actions after that in the whole frg - in frankfurt and hamburg, for example some action happened every day for a week, the squatter's eviction and murder of a prisoner in amsterdam and murder of a black woman in england and the murder of a demonstrator in athens had similar effects.

back to the congress: the experiences named above are the foundation, "from which we can succeed as a whole against the imperialist power and state: in the unity of the guerilla, resistance and prisoners, and in acting in combination with the struggles in western europe as a conscious process of revolutionary overthrow which is concentrating itself on the building of the west european front." (from the conference program) one step towards this goal is the exchange and discussion at the conference which began at the national resistance meeting in the hafenstrasse occupied houses and was hardly disputed. there was some controversy mainly about mistakes in the preparation - not technical ones, but ones in the way it was gone about.

one aspect of the so-called "august-actions" were discussed one whole day. in august/september there were 4 attacks in the frg, which were determined by the same politics. one was the attack on the rhine-main air base by the raf and ad together. the air base is the biggest military cargo airport outside of the u.s. the intervention troops for the middle east and africa start out from there, all reinforcements and supplies for the u.s. army in all of western europe comes in through there, and the materials for the "special forces," are stored there. the attack was determined with the goal: "the strategists of imperialist war in washington, brussels, bonn and paris ... will no longer be able to operate from the assumption of the assured operation of their military machine from here or the quiet planning of their wars." there were 3 other attacks by the resistance with the same goal: on a u.s. army train, on the u.s. army pomcus depot, and on a missile site. this politically clearly determined

unity broke trough the level of accidentally coming together. the participants made the developing unity of the guerilla and the resistance on the west european level concrete for themselves and as an orientation for others. from one communique: "we are taking up the offensive of the west european guerilla with our action and thusly determining ourselves politically and practically in relation to them. we want the common development of the anti-imperialist front here and to take on and move the unity of the revolutionary struggles in western europe as a conscious step from us.toward a common offensive (...) in the conquering of this capacity, the revolutionary front in western europe is intervening in the global power relationship and in this sector it can be c nged for the whole international proletariat. (...) the development of the front is for each one a simply .existential question, for each one of us who does not want the alienation and beastialization of humans in imperialist daily life, who does not want the destruction of life and the conditions of life, imperialist-war and the preparation of the metropolis for the u.s. and nato strategy, who does not want the social and political separation of the metropolitan proletariat from the "third "world", and who believes that self destruction and fighting among the oppressed is the worst of all solutions. the front opens up the perspective of being able to struggle against and be victorious over imperialist power in a long process of revolutionary class warfare, and keep alive and realize one's own revolutionary goals."

the new step of this offensive was submerged into a certain discussion about the airbase action. under dispute was and is the shooting of the g.i. pimental to get his special identification to be certain of being able to drive the car bomb onto the airbase. the criticism ranged from total rejection to criticism of the inadequate political explanation. we did not work out a common standpoint at the new year's meeting, but it

was important that we were able to discuss with so much solidarity with each other, since before we were always talking against each other.

our often false relationship to the new formation of fascism was discussed at the meeting around the murder of a turkish man by fescist skin-heads. (reagan's visit to the graves of former ss officers in bitburg, 1985, increasing propagandistically expanded meetings of old fascists, increase in the skin heads and other neo-fascist groups, the increasing deportation of people wanting political asylum in the frg, counter attacks at the frankfurt airport, herie department store, the hafenstrasse occupied houses ... - provoked or contracted by the state and carried out by neo-fascists.) we have often seen anti-fascist work as a struggle affecting only one segment. our understanding of this issue was somewhat expanded at the meeting, and thusly is one beginning point for the on-going many-sided discussion of "where do we go from here."

- how and with what goals does unity develops
- what does an authentic metropolitan strategy mean for us concretly; how do we develop our class consciousness and who are we relating to with it
- how are we dealing with the whole societal and economic restructuring: less money for living through unemployment and social welfare cuts, singling out of foreigners and women from the production process, computerization of production and the furtherance of the isolation and alienation of people with it, social control through the census and planned intelligence network (social and employment agencies becomming police registration offices, the office for the protection of the constitution and the police working openly together like in the nazi-fascism).

we are entering upon a new orientation, for which we don't yet have a clear picture.

since the hungerstrike, along the line of "prevention and retaliation", the state is trying to massively intimidate the resistance with arrests and sentences which go far beyond their practices up until now. some examples are:

- people who were arrested because of actions around the hs on the level of window smashing are getting 1 1/2 to 3 years prison sentences because the actions are legally not judged as property damage but as support for the raf . that is an expression of their construction of the overall raf with 4 levels: guerilla; prisoners; prisoner's visitors and people who do publicity work around the prison conditions; and as the "newest" level, the militants. with this construction the state is attempting to push the political development of the last year into a juristically managable hierarchical organized organization in order to eliminate the politics and threaten all of us with prison sentences, or rather to prepare for actual arrests

- there have already been arrests based on this construction: whenever they arrest someone from the guerilla or find one of their apartments, they immediately arrest some people from the resistance on the pretext that they were formally friends of the one from the guerilla when they were still living above ground. those arrested are then charged either with membership in the raf or supporting it. (mareille schmegner, ingrid barabass, heidi hutt, angela senftleber)
- the longest sentence yet for someone from the resistance was passed, against claudia wannersdorfer: 8 years prison because of an attack during the hs.

in conclusion, i want to write something about one of the prisoners, günter sonnenberg because it is now a question of putting through the demand for his release, because it is necessary for his survival. günter was arrested on may 3, 1977 and was shot in the head - a life threatening injury. he had a longstanding loss of memory and had to relearn reading and writing. in spite of his situation, or apparently actually because of it, he was totally isolated for a long time and even until now he has more problems with visits, letters, books than even some of the other political prisoners. of course, günter cannot really rehabilitate himself under these conditions. he suffers from concentration, memory, and word recall difficulties. during the hs his condition rapidly worsened and he was close to a mental breakdown - life threatening.

günter had already been on many hungerstrikes, but he had never before had so many difficulties as with this one - which means it was a result of his prison conditions, which are nothing but murderous. he is constantly confronted with his disabilities as a means of pressure. because he hasn't given up the struggle, they want to force him into a physical condition where he finally can no longer struggle. his injury is the means through they want to break his identity, because they haven't been able to do it otherwise.

in a denial of expanded visiting privileges for günter, the prison director said: "when you talk about isolation, that is objectively true, but not because your client has been isolated by us, but rather because he has isolated himself and is not the slightest bit willing to work toward the attainment of the goals of imprisonment." the rehabilitation goal of imprisonment is apparently for political prisoners first attained when they give up their political identity and renounce the struggle. this position is expressed in the fact that everything that would help günter has been refused

- books of his choice
- correspondence courses in english and typing

- visits - a woman from the relatives of the prisoners group was denied visiting privileges. he only has visits from his parents and one other woman

- being put together with his comrade who is in the same prison, not to mention association with otherpolitical prisoners in groups in may last year günter had an epileptic siezure because without an adequate examination the prison doctor had stopped his medicine. even after the seizure günter was not put together with his comrade roland meyer who could have helped him in the event of another seizure.

from these prison conditions, it is clear that günter is in extermination imprisonment. the only possible demand around that is simply his release and until that time that he be put in a group with his comrades. we don't have totally clear yet how we can effect his release. it would be great if our comrades in other countries would also think about that and do publicity around his situation.

more details about günter's prison conditions can be found in a pamphlet put out by a group of lawyers (the above information is also directly or indirectly quoted from this pamphlet)

the title is:

"when you talk about isolation, that is objectively true..."

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